CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DATED 17 JANUARY 1996, CONCERNING THE INTRODUCTION BY TURKEY OF A COMPREHENSIVE MORATORIUM ON ALL ANTI-PERSONNEL LAND-MINE EXPORTS AND TRANSFERS, FOR A RENEWABLE TERM OF THREE YEARS

I have the honour to communicate to you the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey issued on 17 January 1996, concerning the introduction by Turkey of a comprehensive moratorium on all anti-personnel land-mine exports and transfers, for a renewable term of three years.

I would be grateful if you would issue this text as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participants in the work of the CD.

(Signed): Tugay Uluçevik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKEY

"The United Nations General Assembly has been calling on Member States, through its resolutions since 1993, to implement a moratorium on the export of mines as an important part of the efforts to limit the spread of anti-personnel land-mines.

In his various reports on the issue, the United Nations Secretary-General has persistently drawn attention to the grave consequences of the problem of mines.

On the other hand, it is a regrettable fact that mines are being indiscriminately used by terrorist organizations targeting everyone, including women and children.

As a tangible expression of our sensitivity on this important issue, Turkey has in effect been implementing a 'de facto' moratorium by not exporting any mines in recent years. In order to give this de facto national ban greater effectiveness at an international level, Turkey has now decided, on a unilateral basis, to declare a comprehensive moratorium on all anti-personnel land-mine exports and transfers, for a renewable term of three years.

It is our hope that this decision will encourage our neighbours, who have yet to take the necessary steps on this issue, to adopt a decision in the same direction."

Ankara, 17 January 1996